

CLAIMS

1. An oven (1) for heating blanks on the run, especially preforms or intermediate containers, made of a thermoplastic, this oven comprising conveying means (2), suitable for supporting and moving the blanks one after another while making each of them rotate about its own axis, and heating means (3) placed laterally to the conveying means (2) so as to heat the bodies of said moving blanks, characterized in that the conveying means (2) are arranged so as to have at least two conveying branches (4, 5) lying approximately parallel to each other, and near each other, and having opposite conveying directions, the blanks traveling along said two branches one after each other, and the heating means (3) being placed between said two parallel conveying branches (4, 5) and arranged so as to heat, bilaterally and simultaneously, the blanks running in opposite directions along the two conveying branches respectively.

2. The oven as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the two conveying branches (4, 5) are joined, at one of their ends, by a loop conveying section (8) that is located outside the zone where the heating means act.

3. The oven as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that it includes two pairs of parallel conveying branches (4A, 5A; 4B, 5B) with heating means (3A; 3B) placed between the two branches of each pair respectively, the four conveying branches being connected together via loop conveying sections (8A; 8B) located outside the zones where the heating means act.

4. The oven as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the four conveying branches (4A, 5A; 4B, 5B) are mutually parallel.

5. The oven as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the conveying branches (4, 5) are approximately rectilinear.

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6. The oven as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that reflectors (9) are placed alongside each conveying branch on the opposite side from that occupied by the heating means (3).

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7. The oven as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the heating means (3) comprise infrared lamps.